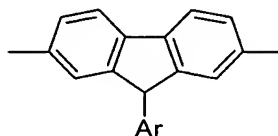


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer comprising optionally substituted first repeat units of formula (I):

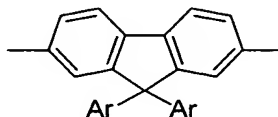


(I)

wherein Ar is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) aromatic hydrocarbon substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group ~~or~~ and
- (b) electron withdrawing heteroaryl.

2. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 1 comprising repeat units of formula (II):

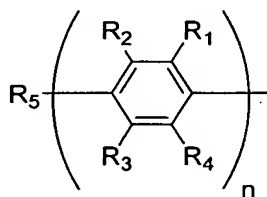


(II)

wherein each Ar is independently selected from the group consisting of:

- (c) aromatic hydrocarbon substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group ~~or~~ and
- (d) electron withdrawing heteroaryl.

3. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein each Ar is independently selected from units of formula (III):



(III)

wherein n is from 1-3 and R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>5</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of:

- hydrogen;
  - ~~solubilising~~ solubilizing groups selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, arylalkyl and heteroarylalkyl; and
  - electron withdrawing groups
- such that at least one of R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>5</sub> is an electron withdrawing group.

4. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar is phenyl or oligophenyl substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group and the at least one electron withdrawing group is selected from: ~~groups comprising~~ the group consisting of fluorine, cyano and nitro.

5. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 4 wherein the at least one electron withdrawing group is selected from the group consisting of fluorine atoms, fluoroalkyl, fluoroaryl and fluoroheteroaryl.

6. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein Ar is an electron withdrawing heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted pyridines and triazines.

7. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 comprising a second repeat unit.

8. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 7 wherein the second repeat unit is selected from the group consisting of triarylamines and heteroaromatics.

9. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 that is capable of transporting electrons.

10. (Original) A polymer according to claim 9 that comprises at least one segment capable of hole transport and / or emission.

11. (Currently Amended) An optical device comprising a polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 10.

12. (Original) An optical device according to claim 11 that is an electroluminescent device.

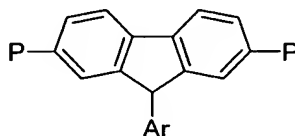
13. (Currently Amended) An electroluminescent device comprising:

- a first electrode for injecting charge carriers of a first type;
- a second electrode for injecting charge carriers of a second type; and
- an emissive layer comprising a polymer according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~

claim 1 between the first and second electrodes.

14. (Currently Amended) A monomer comprising an optionally

substituted compound of formula (IV):

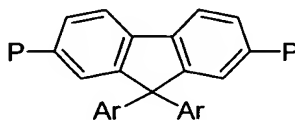


(IV)

wherein each P independently represents a ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable group and Ar is as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A monomer according to claim 14 comprising

an optionally substituted compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein each P independently represents a ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable group.

16. (Currently Amended) A monomer according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~ wherein each P is independently selected from a reactive boron derivative group selected from [a] the group consisting of boronic acid group groups, [a] boronic ester ~~group groups~~ and [a] borane ~~group groups~~ and [a] reactive halide group.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polymer comprising a step of reacting a first monomer as defined in ~~any one of claims 14-16~~ claim 1 with a second monomer that may be the same or different from the first monomer under conditions so as to ~~polymerise~~ polymerize the monomers.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polymer according to claim 17 which comprises ~~polymerising~~ polymerizing in a reaction mixture:

(a) a monomer according to claim 16 wherein each P is a boron derivative functional group selected from [a] the group consisting of boronic acid group groups, [a] boronic ester ~~group groups~~ and [a] borane ~~group groups~~, and an aromatic monomer having at least two reactive halide functional groups; or

(b) a monomer according to claim 16 wherein each P is a reactive halide functional group, and an aromatic monomer having at least two boron derivative functional groups selected from boronic acid groups, boronic ester groups and borane groups; or

(c) a monomer according to claim 16 wherein one P is a reactive halide functional group and one P is a boron derivative functional group selected from [a]

the group consisting of boronic acid ~~group groups~~, [a] boronic ester ~~group groups~~ and [a] borane ~~group groups~~,

wherein the reaction mixture comprises a catalytic amount of a catalyst suitable for ~~catalysing~~ catalyzing the ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization of the aromatic monomers, and a base in an amount sufficient to convert the boron derivative functional groups into boronate anionic groups.